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# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT Russian Zone Shortage of Lubricating Oils

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1. The SMA import-export plan called for the importing of 110,000 tons of crude oil in 1948. Of this quantity, 30,000 tons were to be processed by the mineral oil refineries at Luetzkendorf (D-80) during the first quarter of 1948. Because of irregular deliveries of crude oil, however, the plant was unable to fulfill the quota.
2. Since all deliveries of crude oil from Zistersdorf have been stopped, it is doubtful whether the minimum needs of the Soviet Zone in lubricating oils and fats can be met. The Department of Chemistry has proposed that these products be manufactured in the Hydrierwerke Troeglititz near Zeitz and at Schkopau (Soviet AGs), but Russian approval has not yet been forthcoming.
3. The Department of Chemistry fears that the smooth running of motor vehicles, especially of agricultural tractors, and the operation of factory equipment will be endangered through the lack of lubricating oils and fats. The Russians, aware of the seriousness of the situation, are trying to effect the release of Soviet-owned depots of liquid fuel, oils, and similar products, located in the British sector of Berlin (Westhafen), in exchange for American and British coal reserves, stored in the Soviet sector of Berlin and reported to amount to 13,000 tons of lignite. Subsource feels that the rejection of this proposal by British-American authorities would tend to ease the political situation, since the critical shortage of lubricating oils would be a contributing factor for a Russian change of attitude.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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